

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/045,231
Inventor: Kevin L. Parsons et al.
Filed: November 9, 2001

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct the informalities cited by the Examiner.

Claim 9 has been amended to correct the informalities found by the Examiner. A terminal disclaimer, in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c) is attached hereto, which applicants believe will render claims 1-16, 21-22, 26, 28-30 allowable. Accordingly, dependent claims 17-20, 23-25, 27 are now believed to be allowable as depending, either directly or indirectly, from an allowable base claim(s).

Claim 31 has been rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim, as suggested by the Examiner, so as to make the claim allowable. As a result, dependent claims 31-47 are believed to be allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Claims 1, 27, 31, 36 and 43 have been amended to more clearly define the invention. No new matter has been added.

A fee to cover the cost for the terminal disclaimer is included herewith. It is believed that no other fee is due with respect to this application or this response, however, should any other fee be due, authorization is hereby given to charge any other fees in connection with the subject patent application to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Further, should a petition be necessary applicants request that this paper be considered such a petition and that the required fee be charged to the above-noted Deposit Account.

Reconsideration, continued prosecution and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims are respectfully requested. A sincere effort has been made to overcome the

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Examiner's rejections and to place the application in allowable condition. Applicants invite the Examiner to call applicants' attorney to discuss any aspects of the invention that the Examiner may feel are not clear or which may require further discussion.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is believed that the subject application is now in condition for allowance, and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



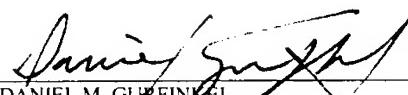
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July 18, 2003

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DATE